

SECRET

1 February 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Evaluation of Pen and Plotting Paper for  Plotter

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25X1 1. Recently an evaluation was conducted to determine the acceptability of the most recently available plotting pens for the  plotter. Two normal pens and one ball point pen were evaluated. Plots were made on normal plotting paper and also on mylar base plotting material. Plots were made using Filmspeed and Map-Overlay plotter tapes. Continuous plotting at full speed was not done because the slow down function in the plotter was not working properly.

2. The following observations were made:

a. Plotting Paper

There was very little difference in quality between plots made on normal plotting paper and mylar base plotting material.

b. Normal Plotting Pens

(1) Both normal plotting pen samples produced essentially the same quality results.

(2) Very often the pen skipped for 1/8 to 3/8 inch at the beginning of a line. This occurred at points where the pen was in an up position before the line drawing was started.

(3) Lines were dark at slow plotting speeds but lightened rapidly as speed was increased.

(4) No splattering of ink was observed.

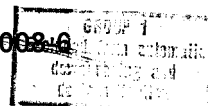
(5) Plot quality was not good enough for direct reproductions.

c. Ball Point Plotting Pen

(1) Practically no skipping was observed.

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(2) Lines were light.

(3) Lines lightened up somewhat at higher plotting speeds, but the change was not as great as with the normal pen.

(4) Long lines were clean; short lines were sometimes rough (as though ink thickness varied as ball point rotated).

(5) Pen seemed to run out of ink on two occasions but recovered without operator intervention. This occurred once on normal plotting paper and once on mylar material.

3. Conclusions:

a. The ball point pen was judged to be superior to the normal pen mainly because of its better quality regarding line skipping. This pen will probably be satisfactory for most of our needs as long as slow plotting speeds can be tolerated.

b. The difference in quality between plots made on normal plotting paper and those made on mylar base material was negligible.

c. Plots at high speed using either pen would probably be unsatisfactory due to faintness of lines.



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Applied Mathematics Section,  
PRB/IPD

Distribution:

Orig. - C/PRB, DC/PRB,  
DC/IPD, PRB File  
1 - PRB Chrono File

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